

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 CU-02 DHA-02 /072 W
-----010620 083429 /17

R 281513Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2905
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1212

PLEASE PASS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND SUBSTANCE TO AALC, NY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PINS ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION CHAIRMAN ASSASSINATED AGAINST
BACKGROUND OF RISING TENSIONS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0126

SUMMARY: MORNING FEBRUARY 25 UNIDENTIFIED ASSASSINS ENTERED
ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU) HEADQUARTERS, ASSASSINATED
RECENTLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN TEWODROS BEKELE, AND SERIOUSLY
WOUNDED DEPUTY SECRETARY GETACHEW LEGESSE. MEMORIAL
RALLY HELD AT REVOLUTION SQUARE FEBRUARY 27 TO PAY HOMAGE
TO AETU CHAIRMAN. SPEECHES GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF
PEASANTS AND URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS, PRIVISIONAL
OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA), ETHIOPIAN
NAVY, AETU, AND PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL (PMAC) BEFORE MODERATE AUDIENCE. IN OTHER
LABOR DEVELOPMENT, WORKERS AT MAJOR CEMENT FACTORY
"EXPOSED" AND ARRESTED 18 "PAID AGENTS OF
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ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP),
ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDU), ERITREAN

OVERATION FRONT (ELF), AND CIA" FEBRUARY 26 FOR
CONDUCTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST REVOLUTION. THESE
ARRESTS AND THIS LATEST ASSASSINATION, WHICH RECEIVED
ETHIOPIAN MEDIA CIVERAGE, OCCURRING AGAINST BACKGROUND

OF ALMOST DAILY REPORTS OF GUNFIRE SOMEWHERE IN CITY,
PLUS USUALLY UNCONFIRMED BUT NONETHELESS WIDESPREAD
REPORTS OF EXECUTIONS AND ARRESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FEBRUARY 26 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED ASSASSIN-
ATION OF AETU CHAIRMAN, TEWODROS BEKELE, AND
SERIOUS WOUNDING OF AETU DEPUTY SECRETARY GETACHEW
LEGESSE. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED MEN IN POLICE UNIFORMS
ENTERED AETU HEADQUARTERS SLIGHTLY FEBORE
10:00 AM, FEBRUARY 25, KILLED TEWODROS, OUNDED
GETACHEW AND WERE ABLE TO FLEE SCENE UNHARMED.
IT RUMORED EPRP HAD SENT DEATHE THREAT LETTERS TO
EACH MEMBER OF AETU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFTER
JANUARY 6 ELECTION OF AETU LEADERS. ETHIOPIAN
HERALD INTIMATED AS MUCH, REPORTING TEWODROS HAD
PREDICTED REACTIONARIES WOULD ASSASSINATE HIM IN
ORDER TO WEAKEN AETU.

2. ORDERLY MEMORIAL RALLY HELD FEBRUARY 27 MODERATELY
ATTENDED. SOME OF SPEECHES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF
PEASANTS AND URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS, POMOA,
ETHIOPINA NAVY, AETU, AND PMAC CITED EPRP, EDU, ELF,
AND CIA AS REACTIONARY, ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY GRUPS
RESPONSIBLE FOR TEWODROS ASSASSINATION,AND ANTI-CIA
SIGNS WERE AGAIN IN EVIDENCE. RELIABLE SOURCE
REPORTED RALLY NOT OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC, WITH NORMAL
SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AS IN PAST. IN RELATED FEBRUARY
26 MEETING OF ADDIS ABABA URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATION
REPRESENTATIVES, THEY VOWED TO AVENGE TEWODROS DEATH
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BY KILLING A THOUSAND ANARCHISTS AND TO CELEBRATE
ADOWA VICTORY DAY MARCH 2 WITH NEW SPRIT TO WIPE
OUT IMPERIALISM FROM ETHIOPIAN SOIL.

3. FEBRUARY 27 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED WORKERS AT
MAJOR CEMENT FACTORY HAD EXPOSED 18 "PAID AGENTS OF
EPRT, EDU, ELF, AND CIA" IN THEIR MIDST DURING CAMPAIGN
AGAINST ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES. REILABLE SOURCE
REPORTS EPRP HAD BEEN MAKING MAJOR INROADS AMONG CEMENT
FACTORY UNION. FACTORY PERSONNEL OFFICER, WONDWOSSEN
WUBE, ENGAGED IN HAFL -HOUR SHOOT-OUT WITHOTHER
WORKERS AND MEN-IN -UNIFROM BEFORE SURRENDERING.
WONDWOSSEN ACCUSED OF SOWING DISCORD AMONG WORKERS
AND RECRUITING EPRP, EDU,AND CIA AGENTS TO
STRENGTHEN PERSONAL POWER BASE. THROUGHOUT ARTICLE
STRONG LINKAGE MADE BETWEEN DISSIDENT ANTI-PMAC
GROUPS, EPRP, EDU, ELF, AND THE CIA.

4. TEWODROS ASSASSINATION AND ARRESTS OF CEMENT

FACTORY WORKERS OCCURED AGAINST BACKGROUND OF
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF NIGHTLY SHOOTING THROUGHOUT
ADDIS ABABA AND ALLEGED ARRESTS OF STUDENT-AGE YOUTH.
ADDIS RUMOR MILL WORKING OVERTIME IN WAKE OF
FEBRUARY 3 EXECUTIONS, INCLUDING ALLEGED ATTEMPTS ON
LT. COL. MENGISTU'S LIFE. EMBASSY BELIEVES LEVEL OF
RANDOM AND SOMETIMES PLANNED SHOOTINGS HAS RISEN
MARKEDLY PAST THREE WEEKS, ALTHOUGH ESTIMATES WE
HAVE HEARD OF ACTUAL NUMBER OF DEATHS AND ARRESTS
CANNOT BE CONSIDERED RELIABLE.

5. COMMENT : TEWODROS ASSASSINATION VIVID DEMONSTRATION
OF CONTINUED EPRP ABILITY TO CARRY OUT AT LEAST SOME
OF ITS THREATS. ALSO 18 ARRESTS AT CEMENT FACTORY
SUPPORT ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE RESURGENCE OF EPRP
ACTIVITY WITHIN LABOR MOVEMENT. INCREASE OF REPORTED
SHOOTINGS, ARRESTS AND THREATS AGAINST EPMG OFFICIALS
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AND OTHER SHAS HEIGHTENED TENSION IN ADDIS ABABA. IT
ALSO APPEARS EPMG CAMPAIGN AGAINST CIA HAS REACHED
NEW STAGE, WITH ACCUSATIONS DIRECTLY LINKING CIA
TO ANTI-PMAC FORCES FAR MORE NUMEROUS THAN IN PAST.
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO AALC, NY.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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